

2017-2018 MEPI Local Grants – U.S. Consulate General Jerusalem

MEPI is providing \$1.5 million to support entrepreneurship and economic development in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza.

Practical Tech for University Grad Employability

Implemented by: Ibdaa

Timeframe: October 2017-January 2019

This project aims to raise awareness of ICT and increase the employability of students from An-Najah National University (Nablus), Al-Quds University (Abu Dis), The Arab American University-Jenin, and the Palestine Polytechnic University (Hebron) by stimulating hands-on technology research and innovation. Through this pilot, 160 students will receive in-depth entrepreneurship training and partner with ICT industry experts to take their innovative tech solutions from idea to execution. Four ideas will receive micro-grants to develop prototype ICT products. In addition, Ibdaa will work with university administrators and faculty to incorporate this kind of technical training into their ICT curricula. At the end of the project, four prototypes will register as start-up businesses and four ICT-related classes will have introduced a hands-on component into their lesson plan.

Increasing TVET Graduates' Entrepreneurial Abilities in Hebron District

Implemented by: North Hebron Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture

Timeframe: October 2017-December 2018

This project will create a soft skills and entrepreneurship curriculum to train 60 graduates from 6 Technical and Vocational Education and Training centers (TVET) and schools in Hebron Governorate and build their capacities to create business plans in their field of interest. At the end of the training, NHCCIA will give project participants the chance to compete for 20 funding opportunities and start their businesses.

Women's Employability and Job Placement in East Jerusalem

Implemented by: Jerusalem Community Advocacy Network (JCAN)

Timeframe: November 2017 – December 2018

This project will increase the employability of 100 women from Kufr Aqab and Al- Tur through soft skills, financial literacy, and workforce development training in the hospitality and food preparation industries. It is expected that at least 80% of these women will obtain jobs in the private sector or form their own cooperative by the end of the project.

Economic Empowerment of Gaza Strip Youth Entrepreneurs

Implemented by: Fares Al Arab for Development and Charity Works

Timeframe: September 2017-May 2018

This project will provide 30 youth entrepreneurs from Gaza City with two months of entrepreneurship training and six months of mentorship on business plan development and starting a business from experts in the IT, agricultural, and business sectors. The project ends with ten youth entrepreneurs receiving micro-grants to launch their newly developed businesses in Gaza.

Integrated Vocational Training and Employment Services for Youth in East Jerusalem

Implemented by: JUHOUD for Community and Rural Development

Timeframe: September 2017-January 2019

This project aims to address the high rate of unemployment among youth in East Jerusalem by strengthening youth employability to allow for economic empowerment and the expansion of employment opportunities for them in the community. The project will identify and train 100 youth from East Jerusalem. By the end of the program 50 youth will be provided with an internship opportunity and job placement.

Economic Empowerment for Women Entrepreneurship in South Gaza

Implemented by: Future Association for Culture and Development

Timeframe: September 2017-August 2018

This project aims to build the capacity of women entrepreneurs in Rafah and Khan Yunis to start their own businesses and enter the job market. By the end of this project, 60 women (15 startups) expect to have businesses and be a part of the local market.

Toys that Give Back

Implemented by: A Child's Cup Full Association (CCF)

Timeframe: November 2017-January 2019

With this project, CCF is challenging the status quo by training and employing marginalized women artisans in the Jenin region and Area C villages to tackle the higher poverty rates by creating high-quality products for the U.S. and international market. The project will provide six months of skills development training and three months of product development for 16 marginalized women, increasing their economic independence and providing them with transferrable job skills. The Project will end with the 16 women obtaining gainful employment.

Support PWDs Efforts to Contribute to Positive Socio-Economic Empowerment in Gaza

Implemented by: Social Developmental Forum (SDF)

Timeframe: October 2017-August 2018

This project aims to encourage financial service providers to adapt their rules, services and environment to include People with Disabilities (PWDs) and their families, and also aims to educate PWDs on how to approach financial services providers. The project will be implemented in the five governorates of Gaza Strip (North Gaza, Gaza city, Deir Albalah, Khan Yunis and Rafah). By the end of this project 50 beneficiaries split into ten groups will be provided with micro-grants to finance ten startup businesses.

PRECious - Palestinian Rural Women E-Commerce Project

Implemented by: Warm Home

Timeframe: October 2017-September 2018

This project will empower Palestinian women with university degrees in rural areas by training them to develop and launch new online-based businesses such as graphic design, translation services, and others. Through this project, 20 women from the seven villages of Kafriyat in Tulkarem, a marginalized area in the north of the West Bank, will receive six months of training and six months of assistance and mentoring in launching their online businesses. The project will end with 20 new online and revenue-generating businesses.

Economic Initiatives for East Jerusalem Women

Implemented by: Steps Forward for socioeconomic rights in East Jerusalem Neighborhoods behind the Wall

Timeframe: October 2017-January 2019

The project's goal is to improve the economic and financial independence of 45 women from East Jerusalem (Kufr Aqab and Samiramees neighborhoods) through basic business, marketing, financial, and legal training as well as opportunities for entrepreneurship and self-employment.

Palestinian Internship Program

Implemented by: Palestinian Internship Program

Timeframe: September 2017-January 2019

The Palestinian Internship Program (PIP) facilitates internships to develop the level of skills and experience of promising youth in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. PIP will provide through this project 30 young Palestinian professionals with internships at leading companies in the world of high tech/innovation. During these internships, PIP will also provide interns with supplementary events and workshops, networking opportunities, and other guidance with the aim of PIP graduates using their experience to obtain a job in the Palestinian hightech/innovation sector.